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TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT: AF PRESS GUIDANCE - NOVEMBER 4, 1994

NOVEMBER 4, 1994

THERE WAS NO PRESS GUIDANCE TASKED BY THE SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE ON 11/4; HOWEVER, YOU MAY FIND THE LENGTHY AND

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE BELOW USEFUL IN RESPONDING TO MEDIA INQUIRIES. THIS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED BY PRM FOR U/S TIM WIRTH AS BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR HIS MEETINGS AT THE UN ON 11/4 WITH UN COMMISSTIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) MRS. OGATA AND UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS KOFI ANNAN.

PRESS GUIDANCE ON RWANDA AND RELATED ISSUES (SUMMARY):

- 1. SECURITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS
- 2. WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- 3. SUPPORT FOR UNAMIR
- 4. WORLD BANK FUNDING
- 5. US EFFORTS TO HELP RWANDA
- 6. ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
- 7. MORE ON THE REFUGEE CAMPS
- 1. SECURITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS
- Q. WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE CAMPS AND RELIEF AGENCIES CONCERNS?

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- A. -- THIS IS A SOURCE OF DEEP CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE USG, IN CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, UN SECRETARIAT, AND UNHER IN WORKING ON WAYS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.
- -- UNDER SECRETARY TIM WIRTH IS IN NEW YORK TODAY TO MEET WITH UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) MRS. OGATA AND UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS ABOUT THIS SERIOUS SITUATION.
- -- THE U.S. IS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN MANY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEX ISSUE OF RWANDA, INCLUDING ASPECTS DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENOCIDE TRIBUNAL.

- -- SPECIFIC MEANS OF RESOLVING THIS MENACE TO REGIONAL STABILITY HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITHIN THE USG FOR SOME TIME.
- -- WE SUPPORTED THE DECISION OF THE UN TO DISPATCH A TEAM TO THE REGION TO STUDY THE PROBLEM. THEY HAVE NOW REPORTED BACK WITH THEIR FINDINGS, AND THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING A REPORT WITH POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS. WE SENT AN INTERAGENCY TEAM UP TO NEW YORK EARLIER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.
- -- COPING WITH THIS PROBLEM BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TROOPS NOW DEPLOYED UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 299879 050239Z MISSION IN RWANDA (UNAMIR) IS JUST ONE OF THE SEVERAL OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

- -- WE AWAIT THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF THE SECRETARIAT'S FINAL REPORT, SO THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAN DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION.
- -- WE WILL BE MEETING WITH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) WORKING IN THE CAMPS TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE UN AND UNHOR EARLY NEXT

WEEK.

-- WE ARE ALSO WORKING TOWARDS THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS IN RWANDA THAT WILL PROMOTE REFUGEE RETURN, INTERNAL RECOVERY, AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. FOR EXAMPLE:

2. WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

-- THE U.S. HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF PRESSING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL ON RWANDAN WAR CRIMES. THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IS IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO TRY THOSE WHO PLANNED AND COMMITTED GENOCIDE AND OTHER GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN RWANDA.

-- RWANDANS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE KILLINGS AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

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 -- WE HAVE SUPPLIED INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION OF
 EXPERTS, AND HAVE SENT INVESTIGATORS TO RWANDA TO SUPPORT
 THE INVESTIGATION EFFORT.
- -- THE UN HAS SENT HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS INTO RWANDA. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING DOLLARS 750,000 THROUGH USAID TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER FOR THIS EFFORT.
- 3. SUPPORT FOR UNAMIR
- -- WE SUPPORTED EXPANSION OF UNAMIR AND HAVE PROVIDED 50 ARMED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS AIR LIFT AND OTHER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, TO EXPEDITE DEPLOYMENT OF THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE.
- 4. WORLD BANK FUNDING
- -- TO HELP FREE UP WORLD BANK FUNDING FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE DOLLARS 2.5 MILLION TO HELP PAY OFF RWANDA'S WORLD BANK ARREARS AND HAVE ENCOURAGED OTHER DONORS TO DO SO AS WELL.
- 5. USG EFFORTS TO HELP RWANDA
- Q. WHAT ELSE HAVE WE DONE TO HELP RWANDA?
- A. -- THE U.S HAS BEEN WORKING WITH AFRICAN NATIONS TO FIND A REGIONAL SOLUTION. 10 DAYS AGO, DEPUTY SECRETARY UNCLASSIFIED

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TALBOTT VISITED SEVERAL AFRICAN NATIONS TO DISCUSS HOW AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES COULD BEST BE USED TO DEAL WITH CRISES SUCH AS THE ONE IN RWANDA.

- -- PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU (BIH-ZEE-MUHN-GOO) MET IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 4-5 WITH NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR LAKE, DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT, UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES BENNETT AND SHATTUCK.
- -- PROMINENT U.S. OFFICIALS, AND A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL MISSION, HAVE VISITED THE REGION, AND WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN REGULAR AND FREQUENT DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
- -- U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN STEMMING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN RWANDA AND REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE AND TANZANIA.
- -- WE SENT APPROXIMATELY 2,000 TROOPS TO THE REGION TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF SUPPLIES AND TO SET UP ADEQUATE WATER SYSTEMS. OUR TROOPS FULFILLED THEIR MISSION AND COMPLETED THEIR DRAWDOWN AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY HANDED OVER TO RELIEF AGENCIES.
- -- WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED OVER DOLLARS 230 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE IN RWANDA, BURUNDI AND NEIGHBORING STATES SINCE THE CURRENT CRISIS BEGAN APRIL 6.
- -- IN ADDITION, DOD MADE AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS 100 MILLION IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.

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6. ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

- Q. WHAT IS THE OVERALL SITUATION ON RELIEF REACHING THE REFUGEES/ WHAT ASSISTANCE IS THE U.S. PROVIDING?
- A. -- UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) AND A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL NGO'S CONTINUE TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE COUNTRIES SURROUNDING RWANDA.
- -- BREAKS IN THE FOOD PIPELINE HAVE RESULTED IN PERIODIC CUTBACKS IN RATIONS IN ALL THE REFUGEE CAMPS. WFP IS ATTEMPTING TO GET SUFFICIENT FOOD INTO THE REGION TO MEET

THE NEEDS OF ALL THE REFUGEES AS WELL AS THE DISPLACED INSIDE RWANDA.

- -- OVERALL, DESPITE THE SECURITY PROBLEMS IN ZAIRE, THE REPORTED MORTALITY RATES IN MOST OF THE CAMPS THERE INDICATE THAT WATER, SANITATION, AND FOOD PROBLEMS ARE MORE OR LESS UNDER CONTROL.
- -- THE SITUATION IN TANZANIA, HOWEVER, IS OF SERIOUS CONCERN DUE TO OVERCROWDING IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS, INADEQUATE SUPPLIES, AND SHORTAGES OF SHELTER MATERIALS.
- -- TO ASSIST WITH THE CONTINUED AND URGENT ASSISTANCE NEEDS, THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY AUTHORIZED THE USE OF UP TO AN ADDITIONAL DOLLARS 30 MILLION FROM THE U.S. EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND FOR THE RWANDAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 09 STATE 299879 050239Z EMERGENCY.

- -- THIS FUNDING WILL BE CONTRIBUTED TO UNHCR, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN REFUGEES.
- -- IT IS HOPED THAT THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING WILL IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES.
- 7. MORE ON THE REFUGEE CAMPS
- Q. WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS IN THE CAMPS/

- A. -- THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE OF FORMER RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MILITARY UNITS, AND MILITIA GROUPS, MANY OF WHOM ARE ARMED, HAS SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CAMPS AROUND GOMA, ZAIRE.
- -- THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS APPEALED TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR HELP IN CONTROLLING THESE ELEMENTS.
- -- A UNITED NATIONS TEAM HAS RECENTLY VISITED THE AREA TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION AND HAS SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL.
- Q. COULD YOU PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON REFUGEE NUMBERS AND WHEREABOUTS?
- A. -- OVER 2 MILLION RWANDAN REFUGEES REMAIN IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 10 STATE 299879 050239Z SURROUNDING COUNTRIES:

- --1,200,000 IN ZAIRE
- -- 270,000 IN BURUNDI
- -- 552,000 IN TANZANIA
- -- 10,000 IN UGANDA
- Q. ARE ANY RETURNING TO RWANDA/
- A. -- UNHCR REPORTS THAT THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES RETURNING TO RWANDA FROM GOMA, ZAIRE, ROSE TO AN AVERAGE OF 2,000 PERSONS PER DAY DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER. REFUGEES CONTINUE TO LEAVE GOMA AT NIGHT OUT OF FEAR OF BEING KILLED BY CAMP LEADERS OR MILITIA.
- -- WHILE UNHER IS NOT ACTIVELY PROMOTING REPATRIATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF EVIDENCE OF AREAS OF INSECURITY IN RWANDA, IT IS ASSISTING THOSE REFUGEES WHO CHOOSE TO RETURN HOME SPONTANEOUSLY.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED CHRISTOPHER